



The Contraption



👁 126 ✓ 5 ★ 12

Chapter 1 by Joshua T

It lay dormant. From the moment the Master's hand created it, the Contraption lay deep in the great recesses of the earth in it's dark simplicity for millenia.

However, after thousands of eons of erosion, the Contraption finally saw atmosphere for the first time since its creation.

It didn't seem that special. It was just a little black box. No one would have noticed it, especially not while it was on the side of a small riverbank.

But Jack did.

Chapter 2 by Harlander



Jack was the sort of boy who collected interesting-looking stones. He liked the shiny ones the best. He'd already found a really nice quartz stone with weird golden flecks, and was holding it up to the light as he walked when he stubbed his foot upon it.

Hidden mechanisms shifted inside the contraption. Potential trembled as it sensed the attention of a living mind.

See more of Story Wars

Jack dropped the quartz in surprise. This new find was unlike any stone he'd spotted before. Cubic, and black, but shiny. He knelt down and reached towards it. To his surprise, red lines started to draw themselves across the cube.

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<< System activation check complete >>

<< Analysing subject >>

He touched the cube with a finger, and red circles radiated out from his touch like ripples from a pond.

He picked the cube up and put it in his pocket. He couldn't wait to show-

<< Mission risk detected >>

>> Realigning subject intentionality matrix <<

- no, wait. Something like this was too special to let just anyone see. Or anyone at all. He gripped the box in his pocket protectively. No-one was going to take it away from him.

Chapter 3 by Harlander



The Contraption makes a "click."

Jake's mother was a little worried. The boy'd been keeping to himself more than usual lately. He'd always been a dreamer, but at least he'd go walking out in the woods with his head in the clouds. Now he spent hours in his room after his day's chores were done, and she was sure he was muttering to himself in there.

He wasn't muttering to himself in there. He was talking to the Contraption. Every moment he held it close to himself, he felt his understanding deepen. The patterns that crawled in glowing red light over its surface were words in a language only he could understand.

<< subject assimilation process 47% complete >>

<< secondary structure deployment ready >>

<< awaiting activation >>

The markings spiralled to a central point on one of the cube's faces. He touched the point, and... the contraption clicked.

From the spot he'd touched, a small cylinder extended, and grew, until it formed a pole as long as Jack was tall. The Contraption's body was now a staff. The Contraption's head was now a sphere.

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Chapter 4 by Harlander



The sphere crawled with those same glowing red marks. But beyond that, Jack saw them squirming across his vision, outlining the objects in his room, telling him their secrets.

He held the staff tightly in one hand as he pushed the door open to his bedroom.

"Oh, finally!" his mother said as she turned at the sound of the door. "I thought you were going to stay in there forever..." Her voice tailed off as her eyes widened in fear. "Jack, what's..."

Jack looked down at his hands. The glowing lines stretched out from his palms where he'd grasped the staff, shimmering as they traced their way up his arms.

<< Subject integration 87% complete >>

<< high-resolution neural mapping in progress>>

"Oh, by the gods!" his mother wailed. "What's happened to you?" The lines and sigils squirmed around her, spelling out the name of her fear.

For himself, Jack felt only calm. A new understanding of the world was impinging itself upon his mind. Everything was linked together like clockwork in a machine. And this clockwork could be adjusted...

Write a draft for chapter 5 of 8 (1 draft)

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